

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8016

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, XG, AU

SUBJ: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSED AT AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST
PARTY CONGRESS

REF: VIENNA 1821

1. FUTURE COMPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL (SI) WAS DISCUSSED ON FRINGES OF AUSTRIAN
SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS, VIENNA, MARCH 11-13. POSSIBLE ADDED
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IMPETUS TO DISCUSSION WAS PRESENCE AT CONGRESS OF FIVE

ARAB OBSERVER DELEGATIONS AND YUGOSLAV SOCIALIST ALLIANCE DELEGATION, ALL OF WHOM CLAIMED TO BE BUILDING SOCIALISM IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

2. WEST GERMAN SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN BRANDT, IN HIS GREETINGS ADDRESS TO CONGRESS, WAS OUTSPOKEN IN DESCRIBING SHORTCOMINGS OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND ON NEED TO DEVELOP ORGANIZATION INTO EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL BODY. LIKE KREISKY, HE ALSO NOTED BROAD SPECTRUM OF PARTIES IN WORLD WHICH TERM THEMSELVES SOCIALIST AND NEED TO EXPAND SI CONTACTS AND ASSOCIATIONS BEYOND LIMITS OF WESTERN EUROPE INTO POSSIBLE "WORLD ALLIANCE OF SOCIALISTS."

3. COMMENTS BY KREISKY AND BRANDT TO PRESS SUGGESTED THAT BOTH LEADERS ARE GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO FUTURE ROLE OF SI AND IN THIS CONNECTION, TO MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS TO SI AND POSSIBLE CHANGE IN SITE OF SI HEADQUARTERS AWAY FROM LONDON.

4. KREISKY TOOK HIMSELF OUT OF RUNNING FOR SI PRESIDENCY BY INDICATING, IN MARCH 11 PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT HE WAS NOT CANDIDATE AND SUGGESTING THAT BRANDT WOULD BE EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR PRESIDENCY. BRANDT, IN TURN, RESPONDED LATER TO SAME QUESTION FROM PRESS BY INDICATING THAT HE FELT HE COULD NOT DO JUSTICE TO SI PRESIDENCY WHILE SERVING AT SAME TIME AS SPD CHAIRMAN. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE COULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO POSSIBILITY, AS SUGGESTED BY ONE PRESS QUERY, THAT SI COULD HAVE NOMINAL PRESIDENT ASSISTED BY ONE OR MORE VICE PRESIDENTS WHO DEALT WITH MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. LATTER DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTS ITSELF AS COMPROMISE SOLUTION, GIVEN OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE OF EACH OF THREE SOCIALIST MSUKETEERS (KREISKY, BRANDT AND PALME) TO ACCEPT SI PRESIDENCY. BUCHANAN

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